(b) and (c) The Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 administered by the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation is a funded scheme, which is valued annually by a Valuer appointed by the Central Government. It may alter the rate of contribution payable under the scheme or scale of benefits admissible under the scheme if the fund so permits through valuation process. On the basis of the first four valuations, the Central Government had approved relief to the existing pensioners resulting in additional benefits. Central Board of Trustees (Employees Provident Fund) has initiated various steps in line with the measures recommended by the Actuarial Valuation Reports.

Appointment of Presiding Officer in Labour Court

414. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no Presiding Officer in the Labour Court of Central Industrial Tribunal, New Delhi for the last five years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total number of cases pending with the court and since when these cases are pending; and

(d) the measures taken by Government for appointing the Presiding Officer of this Labour Court so as to give relief to the workers whose cases are pending there for a long time?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Government has constituted two Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts (CGIT's) in Delhi. Year-wise details of the number of pending cases in these CGIT-cum-Labour Courts is as given below:-

Year	CGIT-I, Delhi	CGIT-II, Delhi*
2000	1101	-
2001	1135	-
2002	1172	-
2003	1142	92
2004	617	188

*The CGIT-cum-Labour Court-II, New Delhi has started functioning from August 2003.

(d) question does not arise in view of (a) above.

Child labour working in mines

415. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ILO, which observed the World Day against Child Labour on the 12th June, 2005, has estimated that there are one million children aged between 5 and 17 currently toiling in mines and quarries all over the world ;

(b) if so, the estimated number of children still working in mines and quarries in India; and

(c) the measures taken by Government for improving working conditions in mines and quarries for the safety and lives of children working there?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir. However, there is no reference to India in the said report.

(b) Occupation-wise data of child labour in the country is not maintained.

(c) Keeping in view the health hazards involved in mining occupation, Government of India have prohibited employment of children in mines under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986. For the rehabilitation of children withdrawn from hazardous occupations, the Government is implementing the National Child Labour Project Scheme for the withdrawal and rehabilitation of children working in hazardous occupations and processes. The Scheme involves enrolling the working children in special schools and providing them education, vocational training, nutrition, health care, stipend, etc. and finally, mainstreaming them into regular schools.

Wages and duty hours of the Daily Wage workers

416. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the minimum wages and normal duty hours prescribed by Government for Chowkidars, Malis etc. engaged by registered Associations/Companies temporarily on daily wages;